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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,291	02/13/2002	Mitsuhiro Shoda	NIT-325	3505

24956 7590 02/12/2004

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EXAMINER

TUPPER, ROBERT S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2652	8

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,291

Applicant(s)

SHODA ET AL.

Examiner

Robert S Tupper

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. Applicant's election of the invention of Group I, claims 1-6, in Paper No. 7 of 12/22/03 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claim 7 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made ~~without~~ traverse in Paper No. 7.
3. 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, requires the specification to be written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." The specification is replete with terms which are not clear, concise and exact. The specification should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

At present, the specification is awkward and confusing. Further, the wording of the claims is unclear (see 112 par.2 rejection below).
4. A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.

Applicant must thoroughly review and revise the specification as indicated above. Any response that does not thoroughly revise the specification will be considered non-responsive.

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5. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The following are indefinite: "disc apparatus of a system of supplying lubricant" (claims 1 and 3-5), "components-in-apparatus" (claims 1 and 2), and "read/write IC unit" (claim 3).

Claim 6 does not properly present the formula.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP7-82698.

Note figures 1 and 2. JP7-82698 teaches (see English abstract) that a lubricant coating is applied to some mechanism part of the disk drive.

JP7-82698 differs in not specifying (A) the exact lubricant utilized (re claims 1 and 3-6), and (B) the components listed (re claims 3 and 5).

Concerning (A), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the listed lubricant. The motivation is as

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follows: the exact lubricant used would have been the obvious result of routine experimentation and optimization where no specific lubricant was specified.

Concerning (B), It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the lubricant coating on the components listed in these claims. The motivation is as follows: the JP7-82698 teaching is not limited to the actuator bearing and guide rail listed in the English abstract. One of ordinary skill in the art would utilize the teaching on other disk drive components.

8. Claims 1, 2, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP1-21557.

Note the figure. JP1-21557 teaches (see English abstract) that a lubricant coating is applied to component (10) in the base of the disk drive.

JP7-21557 differs in not specifying the exact lubricant utilized.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the listed lubricant. The motivation is as follows: the exact lubricant used would have been the obvious result of routine experimentation and optimization where no specific lubricant was specified.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

TYNDALL, WONG, and GREGORY et al show disk drive systems using lubricant of interest.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert S Tupper whose telephone number is 703-308-1601. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 6:00 AM - 3:30 PM (first Fri off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 703-305-9687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert S Tupper
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

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